

**Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday September 4, 2024**

The Board of Health of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit met at 2:05 p.m. at the GUELPH office.

Members in attendance were: George Bridge (Chair), Ralph Manktelow, Guy Gardhouse, Steve Cavell, David Anderson, Sandra Starr, and Chris White.

Member(s) with regrets: Rodrigo Goller, Erin Caton, Linda Busuttil, and Duncan Bull.

Ex-officio member(s) in attendance: Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO.

Staff members in attendance were: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Rita Isley, David Kingma, Kyle Wilson, Lisa Hebden, Emerson Rajaram, Lyndsey Dossett, Danielle Pellegrini, Shelby Leenders, Paul Medeiros, Chuck Ferguson, Tyler Black, Camille Loucks, Jacob MacKinlay, Anna Vanderlaan, Danny Williamson and Laura Kelly (Recording Secretary).

Guests in attendance were: Joanne Shuttleworth (MEDIA), Adam Donaldson (MEDIA), Joy Struthers (MEDIA).

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

Chair G. Bridge called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m., and Dr. Mercer read the WDGPH Land Acknowledgement in full.

2.0 Disclosure(s) of Pecuniary Interest

There are no disclosures of pecuniary interest declared at this time.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

MOTION: “To approve the Minutes of June 5, 2024 as presented.”

Moved:	S. Starr	
Seconded:	D. Anderson	CARRIED

4.0 MOH Updates

MOH Update(s):

Dr. Mercer provided several updates as follows:

- National Truth and Reconciliation Day is on September 30, 2024. Dr. Mercer encouraged staff to set aside time to reflect and consider how they can continue to promote the work of reconciliation with indigenous communities.
- International Literacy Day is on September 8, 2024, this year. The day promotes the importance of literacy as a matter of dignity and human rights. The importance of language development and literacy skills in early childhood was highlighted.
- WDGPH has launched a Community Alcohol Survey over the summer months to learn more about the community’s current knowledge, attitudes and behaviours related to alcohol. Residents of WDG are eligible to participate and participation automatically enters individuals into a draw for a chance to win a \$100 gift card. Details are provided on WDGPH’s website.
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- WDGPH will provide a Stigma training session to Board of Health members in the coming months. The Board members discussed appropriate timing and R. Isley, WDGPH’s Chief Nursing Officer, will be following up with her team to schedule a date and time.

5.0 Presentation(s)

2024 WHY Surveys

L. Dossett presented in conjunction with Board of Health report BH.01.SEP0424.R25 – 2024 WHY Surveys (see 8.0 BOH Report(s) for summary).

Youth Gambling, Gaming, and Substance Use Prevention Program

A.Vanderlaan presented in conjunction with Board of Health report BH.01.SEP0424.R26 – Youth Gambling, Gaming, and Substance Use Prevention Program (see 8.0 BOH Report(s) for summary).

School-Based Immunization Program: A Focus on HPV

K. Mulvey presented in conjunction with Board of Health report BH.01.SEP0424.R27 – School-Based Immunization Program: A Focus on HPV (see 8.0 BOH Report(s) for summary).

6.0 Business Arising

- None.

7.0 Consent Agenda

- **BH.01.SEP0424.C12** – Harm Reduction Program Review
- **BH.01.SEP0424.C13** – Health Protection 2024 Q2 Summary

MOTION: “To receive the Consent Agenda item(s) which have been given due consideration, for information.”

Moved: C. White
Seconded: S. Starr **CARRIED**

8.0 BOH Report(s)

BH.01.SEP0424.R25 – 2024 WHY Surveys

Dr. Mercer introduced and L. Dossett presented on screen and reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.SEP0424.R25– as follows:

- The WHY Surveys collect valuable self-reported health and well-being data from students, parents, and school-board staff across WDG.
- The results of these surveys create a shared understanding of students’ well-being and help to identify challenges facing local youth.
- This is the third cycle of WHY Surveys, collected between November 2023 and February 2024. The first and second cycles were collected in 2019 and 2022 respectively.
- The results of the WHY Surveys provide WDGPH with valuable insights and aids in developing comprehensive strategies to support the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of children in the WDG community.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.SEP0424.R25 – 2024 WHY Surveys as presented for information.”

Moved: C. White
Seconded: S. Cavell **CARRIED**

BH.01.SEP0424.R26 – Youth Gambling, Gaming, and Substance Use Prevention Program

Dr. Mercer introduced and A. Vanderlaan presented on screen and reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.SEP0424.R26 – as follows:

- Increasing rates have been observed in youth across the WDG region concerning potentially harmful and addictive behaviours such as gambling, gaming, and substance use.
- WDGPH has been working with and supporting the work of its community partners in their efforts to combat this issue.
- WDPGH conducted a survey of the gambling, gaming, and substance use prevention and education program developed by Homewood Health in partnership with UGDSB and WCDSB. The students recognized the importance of the program, but also provided recommendations for improvement.
- A. Vanderlaan shared the evaluation results with the Board. The results will be incorporated into future program planning.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.SEP0424.R26 – Youth Gambling, Gaming and Substance Use Prevention Program as presented, for information.”

Moved: G. Gardhouse
Seconded: R. Manktelow

CARRIED

BH.01.SEP0424.R27 – School-Based Immunization Program: A Focus on HPV

Dr. Mercer introduced and K. Mulvey presented on screen and reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.SEP0424.R27 – as follows:

- Each year, WDGPH offers the hepatitis B, human papillomavirus (HPV), and quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate (MCV4) vaccines to students in WDG as part of the provincial school immunization program. The uptake for these vaccines in the WDG area is above the provincial average for 12 and 17-year-olds, however the HPV vaccine continues to have a lower immunization coverage rate across all grades.
- K. Mulvey highlighted the success of the HPV vaccine, which has been scientifically proven to prevent several different types of HPV infections and related cancers.
- Beginning in September, parents and guardians of grade 7 students will receive online consent forms and information packages from WDGPH regarding school vaccine clinics.
- It is strongly recommended that all children receive these vaccines to safeguard them against future cancers.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.SEP0424.R27 – School-Based Immunization Program: A Focus on HPV as presented, for information.”

Moved: D. Anderson
Seconded: G. Gardhouse

CARRIED

BH.01.SEP0424.R28 – Opioid Surveillance Update

Dr. Mercer introduced and J. MacKinlay reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.SEP0424.R28 – as follows:

- The City of Guelph and Dufferin County have recently witnessed increases in opioid-related emergency department visits, while Wellington county witnessed a slight decrease.
- As of 2023, WDG’s rates of opioid-related mortality have gradually declined. WDG’s opioid-related mortality rates are 32% below the provincial average.
- WDGPH’s FAST Surveillance System has been updated to include EMS data, extending its coverage to the entirety of the WDG region.
- WDGPH will continue to collaborate with its community partners to develop a multi-disciplinary and community-wide response to the opioid crises.

- Board members discussed current and future state funding for treatment centres and safe consumption sites.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.SEP0424.R28 – Opioid Surveillance Update as presented, for information.”

Moved: D. Anderson

Seconded: S. Starr

CARRIED

BH.01.SEP0424.R29 – Mitigating Household Health Hazards

Dr. Mercer introduced and reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.SEP042.R29 – as follows:

- Since the pandemic, there has been an increase in health hazard related calls. The report highlighted the need for enhanced public health interventions.
- WDGPH’s “No Wrong Door” approach ensures that community members receive the appropriate assistance and access to resources regardless of the nature of their complaint.
- WDGPH will continue to maintain strong partnerships and provide comprehensive resources to WDG residents, ensuring the community is well equipped to address challenges and maintain optimal health.
- H. Wilson was available for additional questions from the Board of Health and reviewed the report in more detail as requested.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.SEP0424.R29 – Mitigating Household Health Hazards as presented, for information.”

Moved: S. Cavell

Seconded: R. Manktelow

CARRIED

9.0 Committee (Verbal) Report(s)

Finance + Audit Committee Report:

- NONE.

Human Resources Committee Report:

- NONE.

Executive Committee Report:

- NONE.

11.0 Correspondence

- Letter of June 20, 2024 from WDGPH Board Chair George Bridge to Minister Khanjin re: Provincial Wastewater Surveillance Program.

- Email from Ted Arnott to Minister Khanjin in support of Chair Bridge’s letter of June 20, 2024, dated June 25, 2024.
- Letter from MPP Mike Schreiner to Minister Khanjin in support of Chair Bridge’s letter of June 20, 2024, dated July 15, 2024.

MOTION: “To receive the above-noted correspondence for information.”

Moved: C. White

Seconded: S. Starr

CARRIED

12.0 Closed Session Minutes – JUN 05/24

MOTION: “To approve the Closed Session minutes of June 5, 2024, as presented.”

Moved: R. Manktelow

Seconded: D. Anderson

CARRIED

13.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

MOTION: “To adjourn the meeting.”

Moved: R. Manktelow

Seconded: G. Gardhouse

CARRIED